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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,311	07/07/2003	Timo Kleinwachter	HOE-764	9366

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Lipsitz & McAllister, LLC
755 MAIN STREET
MONROE, CT 06468

EXAMINER

LANG, AMY T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3731

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/09/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/615,311

Applicant(s)

KLEINWAECHTER, TIMO

Examiner

Amy T. Lang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior office action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/23/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Specifically, applicant argues (A) that only reference numeral 6 in Figure 2 of Sonefors is equivalent to a tooth flank.

With respect to argument (A), as shown in Figure 2, Sonefors does disclose three tooth flanks. The first is indicated by reference numeral 6, the second represents the flank where the arrow of reference numeral 4 points, and the third flank represents the flank where reference numeral 5 points. Furthermore, Sonefors discloses that the first tooth flank (reference numeral 6) of every other tooth lie in a plane (column 3, lines 10-18).

Specifically, applicant argues (B) that there is no reason to combine the references of Arnegger and Gerber.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in

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the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, it would have been obvious to combine the device of Arnegger with the blade of Gerber to reduce vibrations generated from the blade.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 1-20, 22, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnegger (US 4,513,742) in view of Sonefors (US 5,361,665).

4. Arnegger teaches a surgical saw blade with a holder body 44, a row of teeth 42, and a plurality of channels 43. The channels are formed between opposed, non-parallel tooth flanks in a trough shape with respect to an axis of symmetry 9, and act to remove

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the cut particles, reducing the friction and heat produced by the blade (col. 3, lines 56-58). Arnegger also discloses a holder body channel 43 that extends along the row of teeth through a lower and upper face of the holder body. Arnegger further discloses an indent 11 that connects the blade to an oscillating saw (col. 3, lines 48-50).

5. Regarding claim 2, 6 and 12, Arnegger shows in Figure 4 a plurality of channels 22 that connect with a holder body channel 13. Arnegger is silent with regard to the actual dimensions of the holder body channel with respect to thickness, but it is shown in Figure 2 that the thickness of the holder body channel is between 15% and 35% of the holder body.

6. Regarding claim 16, Arnegger discloses that the height of the teeth is equal to the width of the holder body as shown in Figure 3 (col. 2 lines 29-32). Regarding claim 27, Figure 2 shows the thickness of the row of teeth is greater than the thickness outside the row of teeth on the holder body.

7. Arnegger fails to teach a plurality of teeth formed with three flanks in the vicinity of the tip of the tooth.

8. Sonefors discloses, in Figure 2, a first tooth flank 6 that is substantially parallel between an upper and lower face and parallel to each other relative to the first and second surface. The thickness in the area of row of teeth between first tooth flanks of adjacent teeth is more than the spacing between the first and second surface (col. 2, lines 54-58). The second and third tooth flanks (5 and 4 respectively) are arranged at an angle to the lower and upper face of the holder body. The geometry of the teeth allow for a straight cut with a visual guide.

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9. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Arnegger with the teeth of Sonefors. Using the geometrical design of Sonefors, the teeth would help the saw make a straight cut and function as a vertical guiding surface, reducing the risk for damage to the surrounding tissues.

10. Claims 23-25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnegger (US 4,513,742) in view of Sonefors (US 5,361,665) and in further view of Gerber (US 4,653,373). Arnegger teaches a surgical saw blade with channels 43 and a row of teeth 42. Arnegger fails to teach a saw blade composed of a stiff portion and a resilient portion, with a plurality of recesses within the blade formed along an axis of symmetry. Gerber teaches, in Figure 13, a blade 210 formed with an inner portion 230 and an outer portion 232, each composed of a material with a different hardness. Gerber also discloses, in Figure 9, a plurality of evenly spaced recesses 149. The combination of stiff and resilient materials reduces vibrations while maintaining the longevity of the blade. At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Arnegger with the blade of Gerber in order to reduce the vibrations generated from the blade while incorporating a high-wear material on the exterior of the blade.

11. Claim 26 recites a process of arrangement and construction of the recesses in the blade. The determination of patentability in a product-by-process claim is based on the product itself, even though the claim may be limited and defined by the process. That is, the product in such a claim is unpatentable if it is the same as or obvious from

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the product of the prior art, even if the prior product was made by a different process. In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 697, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). A product-by-process limitation adds no patentable distinction to the claim, and is unpatentable if the claimed product is the same as a product of the prior art.

Conclusion

Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amy Lang whose telephone number is (571) 272-9057. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

12/29/2006
Amy T. Lang



ANH TUAN T. NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

1/4/07